

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the specification has been amended to provide it with the appropriate headings.

With respect to the objection to the disclosure, the Examiner will note that the specification has been amended to remove references to the claims.

In addition, the last paragraph on page 5 of the specification has been amended to set forth the actual name of the material used.

Concerning the objection to claim 2, it is respectfully pointed out that the word "moduli" is the plural of the word "modulus".

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Slater, Jr., are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully point out that the reference to Slater, Jr. was also cited during the international phase of this

PCT application. During the international phase claim 1 was amended to distinguish over this reference.

While the reference to Slater, Jr. does constitute the closest prior art, it is submitted that the reference does not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed.

A significant feature of claim 1 of the present application is the fact that the second part of the annular body is received in a pocket of the first part. This feature can clearly not be found in the reference. In addition, the reference also does not provide a suggestion toward the present invention as claimed in claim 1.

By placing the second part in a pocket of the first part, the connecting elements required in the reference, which may be formed by screws 126 or also by an adhesive process or by clips, as stated in column 6, lines 7-10 of the reference, become superfluous and can be omitted. By placing the second part in the pocket of the first part, an axial displacement of the second part in the first part is not possible because the second part is clamped tightly between two walls which lock the part in the axial direction. Due to the fact that the second part of the annular body is at three of its four sides in connection with the first part (frictional connection between two rubber seals), it is also not possible that a relative movement occurs in the direction of rotation.

As a consequence, the assembly of the two sealing parts is significantly simplified. Furthermore, it is no longer necessary to use a screw or clip or a glued connection. In addition, when the components are disassembled when one of the parts is worn, it is not necessary to screw the two-component sealing body apart, or to release the glued connection or to remove the connecting clips.

Accordingly, the configuration of the sealing device according to the present invention is much less expensive because fewer parts have to be used, and the sealing device is less expensive because the assembly and disassembly of the components requires less labor.

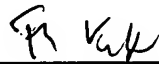
Accordingly, it is submitted that it is clear from the above that claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the art of record.

The reference to Slater '480 discloses lips which are supported by spring elements 110; however, this reference also does not anticipate or render obvious the feature of placing the second part of the annular body in the pocket of the first part. Accordingly, even when combining the two references relied on by the Examiner, the features of claims 1 and of dependent claim 7 were not disclosed or suggested.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

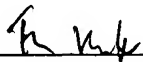


Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

FK:aw
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 30, 2005.

By:  _____ Date: June 30, 2005
Friedrich Kueffner